



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**  
Delta Regional Office (Serving Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi)  
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## **NASS VISITS AREA FARMS TO GATHER CONSERVATION DATA** *St. Francis River Basin is the Focus of 2014 CEAP Survey*

**Little Rock, AR** – In August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will reach out to producers and agriculture landowners in the St. Francis River Basin to gather information on their conservation practices. As part of the National Resources Inventory (NRI) – Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), the survey is being conducted on selected areas of land in Arkansas and Missouri.

“As part of a cooperative agreement with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), NASS is conducting this survey to collect comprehensive information on the effectiveness of current conservation practices,” said Becky Cross, Director of the Delta Regional Office. “By participating in the CEAP survey, you are helping to maintain productive farmland, to protect the environment, and to preserve clean water in your community and downstream.”

Need more reasons to respond to the CEAP survey? Here are six additional reasons why participation is important:

1. Determine the most beneficial conservation practices for the St. Francis River Basin to help improve the quality of natural resources and cropland.
2. Determine areas in the St. Francis River Basin that will benefit most from the use of alternative conservation practices to provide more valuable natural resources to local farmers.
3. Evaluate resources farmers may need in the future to further protect the soil and water in the area.
4. Illustrate the good work that farmers in the region are already doing to conserve natural resources.
5. Improve and strengthen technical and financial programs that help landowners plan and install conservation practices on agricultural land.
6. Maintain the very conservation programs that can help producers' bottom line while also protecting the soil, water, and habitat on which we all depend.

Local NASS representatives are visiting producers and landowners in the area to personally gather information on farm production practices, chemical, fertilizer and manure applications, tillage, irrigation use, and installed conservation practices for the 2012-2014 crop years.

Information provided by respondents, for all NASS surveys, is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified.

“The CEAP survey will provide a much needed complete picture of conservation practices in the St. Francis River Basin,” said Cross. “And at the end of the day, maintaining conservation programs benefits producers themselves by protecting the environment upon which their livelihood depends.”

For more information or questions about the CEAP survey, contact the NASS Delta Regional Office at (800) 327-2970 or visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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